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**Tetbury Rural District
Council**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

1939

Tetbury Rural District.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for 1939.

FOREWORD

Herewith is the Annual Report for the year 1939, eight months under the late Dr. Adams, and four under myself, who was appointed locum for the duration.

Birth Rate was on the high side, the standard Death rate 11.3, and Infant Death Rate nil, with only two illegitimate births.

REGINALD GREEN, M.D., D.P.H.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	31,781
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	5,732
and estimated 1939	...	...	...	...	...	5,979
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)						1,664
				(end of 1939)		1,798
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£25,013
Sum represented by a penny rate					...	£107

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		M.	F.	Total
LIVE BIRTHS	...	45	45	90
Legitimate	...	44	44	88
Illegitimate	...	1	1	2
Birth Rate (R.G.) 15.3				
STILL BIRTHS	...	1	2	3
Legitimate	...	1	2	3
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births, 10.7				
DEATHS		42	33	75
Death Rate (R.G.) 12.5 per 1,000				
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES				... Nil
Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1000 births :—				
Legitimate, Nil ; Illegitimate, Nil ; Total, Nil				
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		...	...	9
„	„ Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„	„ Whooping Cough	...	...	Nil
„	„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	Nil

The M.O.H., is a part time official between the two Cirencester districts, Northleach and Tetbury.

Owing to war conditions, a war locum has been appointed, and, unfortunately, Dr. Adams died at the year end whilst on military service. The present locum is a M.D., D.P.H., and has had over 40 years experience of health work.

The present inspector is a fully qualified man.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1939.
(REG. GENERAL).

DISEASE.	Males.	Females.
Diphtheria	—	—
Influenza	—	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	2
Cancer	7	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	6	2
Heart Disease	12	9
Other Circulatory Diseases	—	1
Bronchitis	1	—
Pneumonia	2	1
Digestive Diseases	1	—
Nephritis	—	3
Congenital Causes, etc.	—	1
Senility	2	4
Other Violence	2	—
Other defined Diseases	8	5
Suicide	—	2
All causes	42	33

DEATH RATE:—12.5 per 1,000, as to 12.1 in 1938 ;
Standard Death rate 11.3 per 1,000, and in Eng-
land and Wales 12.1.

BIRTH RATE:—15.3 ; and rate in England and
Wales 15.1.

INFANT MORTALITY:—Nil, compared with 44 in
1938 ; and the figure for England and Wales for
1939 was 50, all per 1,000 live births.

HEALTH SERVICES.

The County laboratory is used for examinations of specimens from doubtful infectious diseases.

Water examinations are carried out by the County Analyst at Gloucester.

An ambulance for infectious cases is situated at the Cirencester Isolation Hospital, to which infectious cases such as Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria are sent. There is also an ambulance for non-infectious cases.

Tubercular patients are treated at Standish House, and the Isolation Hospitals at Stroud and Gloucester

There is a County Maternity Hospital at the late Infirmary here.

Nursing is carried out by the Nursing Associations, whose nurses visit the schools, and call on Tubercular patients.

There are two Infant Welfare Centres, one at Tetbury, meeting on alternate Tuesdays, the other at Avening, which is open two Thursdays per month. Both have Medical Officers in attendance, and are doing excellent work.

Defective school children are treated either in Cirencester, or at Stroud Hospital, and there is a special orthopaedic clinic at both places, one session per week.

Venereal disease clinics are held at Stroud Hospital twice a week.

There is a Cottage Hospital in Tetbury, but the Public Assistance Infirmary is now closed, and has been opened as a County Maternity Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

The rainfall being above the average, there was no special shortage during the year.

The rainfall at The Chipping was 33.85 inches, compared with 26.98 in 1938. The heaviest month was January with 6.22 inches.

The fall at Shipton Moyne, where there is a deep boring under private ownership, the rainfall was 34.73 inches, the highest fall since 1922, at least.

In connection with water supply, 996 inspections were made altogether. In 7 other parishes there are public supplies, which were quite satisfactory throughout the year.

In June was started a 60,000 gallon reservoir of concrete, and about 35 feet above the ground. A small pump was also to be installed. This tower supply would give sufficient head for the whole of Tetbury, as the pressure in certain parts was very small.

The approximate daily consumption of water is 35,000 gallons, and as the population nears ~~2,000~~ 2,500, about ~~15~~ 14 gallons a day per head is used.

Two samples were taken from the public supply, one in April, and the other at the end of December.

In regard to the chemical examination : in April, Chlorine was 2.8, and in December, 2.6 per 100,000 parts of water. The hardness, all in one case being temporary, and nearly all in the second, was about 24 degrees, which is hard water. Organically, both waters were very good. In the April sample, however, Nitrites were present in 0.00064 parts per 100,000, which is quite unusual in a water like this. The bacterial content of the water tested was very low, and B. Coli was absent in 80 c.c.'s in the April, and in 100 in the later one. Naturally both samples were certified as fit for human consumption.

The parishes of Didmarton, Long Newnton and Shipton Moyne are supplied by the West Glos. Co., and the supply has been normal. The other local supplies have been quite satisfactory, and no shortage has been experienced.

RAINFALL AT THE CHIPPING, TETBURY.

Altitude approximately 385 feet above sea level.

Month	Total
January	6.22
February	1.54
March	1.67
April	2.20
May	1.05
June	2.20
July	4.10
August	2.45
September	1.58
October	2.31
November	6.19
December	2.07
	33.58

RAINFALL AT SHIPTON MOYNE WATERWORKS.

Altitude approximately 320 feet above sea level.

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
January ...	2.37	2.88	.80	3.97	4.69	3.75	5.11
February ...	2.83	.32	3.07	2.48	4.99	1.13	1.83
March ...	3.51	2.29	.81	2.40	4.27	.26	1.92
April ...	1.24	1.95	4.91	2.06	2.99	.20	3.10
May ...	2.14	1.06	1.36	1.02	2.42	2.19	.87
June ...	1.78	2.49	3.94	2.26	1.51	1.77	2.20
July ...	1.90	1.97	.91	5.29	2.61	1.94	4.67
August ...	.97	2.40	2.36	.54	.79	3.13	2.37
September ...	3.53	2.24	5.50	3.44	3.01	3.38	1.64
October ...	3.03	1.89	6.07	1.75	3.82	5.09	3.04
November ...	.73	1.33	6.25	4.13	1.49	3.49	5.75
December ...	.69	6.45	3.76	3.37	1.99	3.34	2.22
	24.78	27.27	29.74	32.71	34.58	29.67	34.73

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The Sewerage Works, consisting of 10 irrigation beds, have worked well during the year. Samples were taken of the effluent, both of which were considered to be up to standard.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Conversion of privy vaults to earth closets ...	1
Conversion of privy vaults to water closets...	—
Conversion of earth closets to water closets...	1
New water closets	10
New earth closets	1

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints of nuisance from pollution of streams in the district have occurred. The local streams are very well looked after by the Conservancy Boards.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The removal of refuse is carried out regularly, as in previous years, to tips, which were inspected on 67 occasions. Schemes are now being developed for the separate collection of waste paper, and there is also a great demand for bones, which are used in munition work.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

Premises (1)	Inspections (2)	Number of Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	144	1	—
Workshops (including Work- shop Laundries)			
Workplaces (other than Out- workers' Premises)			

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Bakehouses	...	...	5	Painters and Decorators	2	
Butchers ...	...	...	4	Bootmakers	...	2
Laundries	...	...	4	Timber Merchants	...	1
Gas Works	...	...	1	Hairdressers	...	3
Tailors	...	...	2	Stone Mason Yard	...	2
Motor Engineers	...	...	8	Saddler	...	2
Wheelwrights	...	...	1	Printing Works	...	1
Blacksmiths	...	...	7	Millers	...	1
Builders	...	...	2	Metal Workers	...	1
Carpenters	...	...	9	Quarries	...	1

There were made 114 inspections of these premises, but only one notice was necessary to be sent. The number of these was the same as 1938, there being 59 in all. This number includes 8 Garages, 7 Blacksmiths, and 5 Bakehouses.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Inspections made	...	...	...	...	506
Houses, Inspections of, under Public Health Acts					351
Nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	82
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	86
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	82
Number of houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	10

There were 506 inspections altogether. Nuisances discovered were 82, complaints 86, and all the nuisances were abated. No nuisance was known as due to excessive smoke from chimneys. It was not found necessary to use any means for the disinfestment of bugs. Twelve shop premises were inspected under the Shops Act, 1936, but no marked defects were found.

SCHOOLS.

There are 9 schools in the area, all except one being Church schools. Their attendance on the average is about 600 children. In 6 schools pail closets are in use, and water carriage in 3. There are in all 58 closets, or almost one per every 10 children. All the schools have water laid on, with one exception, where rain water is in use. This school is the only Council School in the area.

PARISH	C of E or County School	Atten- dance (appx.)	Closet Type	Boys	Girls	In- fants	Disposal of excreta	Water Supply
Avening ...	C of E	92	Pail	2	4	1	Weekly	Village Supply
Boxwell with Leighterton	County	24	Pail	3	6	0	Weekly	Rain Water
Cherington	C of E	21	Pail	3	1	0	Weekly	Village Supply
Didmarton	C of E	41	W.C.	2	6	0	—	Main Supply
Kingscote ...	C of E	42	Pail	2	2	1	Weekly	Spring
Long Newnton ...	C of E	32	Pail	2	2	0	Weekly	Main Supply
Shipton Moyne ...	C of E	35	Pail	1	2	0	Weekly	Main Supply
Tetbury ...	C of E	303	W.C.	8	4	4	—	Main Supply
Westonbirt with Lasborough	C of E	14	W.C.	1	1	0	—	Village Supply

CAMPING SITES.

There are no registered Camping Sites in the district, and none have been applied for.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(a)	1.	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects [under Public Health or Housing Acts]	145
	2.	Number of inspections made	641
(b)	1.	Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-section (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1937	69
	2.	Number of inspections made	354
(c)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(d)		Number of dwelling-houses [exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head] found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	65

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	27
--	----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(a) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
	(a) By Owners	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

(b) *Proceedings under Housing Act, 1936.*

PART II.—REPAIRS, DEMOLITION, CLOSURE.

(1) Repairs (Sec. 9, 10 and 16).

(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	Nil
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—			
(1)	By Owners	...	...	Nil
(2)	By Local Authority	...	...	Nil

(2) Demolition (Secs. 11 and 13).

(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	Nil
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	8

(3) Closure of portions of buildings (Sec. 12).

(a)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	Nil

The houses inspected under the various housing acts were 145, whereas in 1938 there were apparently 453 so dealt with. The number of inspections carried out was 641. Of the total, only 69 were recorded in the housing register, but 354 inspections were made of them. As in 1938, no houses were returned as unfit for human habitation, but 65 were considered not reasonably fit, compared with 275 in 1938. Informal action of the officials was the means of 27 houses being rendered fit, no action being taken under the statutory powers, either Housing Acts or Public Health Acts. No demolition orders were made, or found necessary, but 8 houses were pulled down on previous orders. No closing orders were made in regard to portions of tenements, or of underground rooms.

CLEARANCE AND IMPROVEMENT AREAS.

No clearance areas have been dealt with in the district, and none seem likely to be suggested, as there is little or any surface overcrowding.

OVERCROWDING.

At the end of 1939, only 3 cases of legal overcrowding were known in the area, each in a separate house. A year before, there were 7 such cases, and of these 4 were abated in the year. The three families consist of 20 persons all told, or practically 7 per house. No new cases were discovered in the year. The 4 abated cases contained 26 children, or 6.5 per family.

PART IV. OVERCROWDING.

1.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of year	...	...	...	...	...	3
	(b)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	3
	(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	20
2.		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
3.	(a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	4
	(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	28
4.	PARTICULARS RELATING SPECIALLY TO AGRICULTURAL POPULATION.							

Action under Housing Act, 1936.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) | Number of houses provided for members of agricultural population to relieve overcrowding, and subject to Ministry and County Council Grants under Secs. 108 and 115 (3) | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) | Number of houses provided for members of the agricultural population, exclusive of those for the relief of overcrowding, and subject to grant from the County Council under Sec. 115 (2) | ... | ... | Nil |

Action under Housing of the Rural Workers' Acts, 1926 and 1931

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) | Number of houses or other buildings dealt with by repair or conversion | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) | Number of repaired or reconstructed dwelling-houses provided as a result of the above action | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Council has 92 Council Houses situated in the following parishes :—

Ashley	...	...	...	2
Avening	...	...	...	12
Boxwell-with-Leighterton	...	...	...	5
Tetbury	1919	...	...	12
„	1924	...	...	12
„	1936	...	...	49
Total				92

AGRICULTURAL POPULATION HOUSING.

No special action was taken for the provision of houses for rural workers, or for the repair of any occupied houses, except for action under the general clauses of the housing acts. Much more work was done in 1938 in the housing of rural workers.

NEW BUILDINGS.

There were 33 new plans of either new houses, or houses to be altered, compared with 40 in 1938. There were 8 new dwellings, 11 alterations, and 9 garages involved. No houses were built by the Council, there having been 92 erected altogether, of which 73 were in Tetbury town. The number of inspections, in connection with the buildings this year, was 480.

Parish	New Dwellings	Alterations and additions to existing buildings	Garages	Miscellaneous
Beverstone ...	—	1	—	—
Avening ...	3	1	1	—
Didmarton ...	—	—	—	—
Long Newnton ...	—	1	—	1
Leighterton ...	—	1	—	1
Kingscote ...	—	—	—	—
Shipton Moyne ...	1	—	—	—
Tetbury ...	1	2	8	6
Tetbury Upton ...	3	5	—	4
Total	8	11	9	12

Number of inspections in connection with new buildings, etc. :—

Footings	...	...	...	17
Damp proof courses	...	...	...	23
Intermediate inspections	...	...	...	351
Drain Tests	...	...	...	59
Final inspections	...	...	...	30

MILK SUPPLY.

Parish	Producers & Retailers		Producers	Retail Purveyors	Total
Ashley ...	...	...	1	2	3
Avening ...	...	...	3	4	7
Beverston	...	...	2	2	4
Boxwell-with-Leighterton	...	...	6	2	8
Cherington	...	...	1	4	5
Didmarton	...	...	2	3	5
Kingscote	...	...	—	6	6
Long Newnton	...	...	2	5	7
Ozleworth	...	...	1	3	4
Shipton Moyne	...	...	—	2	2
Tetbury ...	...	...	3	2	8
Tetbury Upton	...	...	6	9	15
Westonbirt-with- Lasborough	...	...	—	1	1
			27	45	75

Number of premises carrying on the trade	...	75
„ „ registered during the year	...	5
Licence to produce Tuberculin Tested milk	...	10
„ „ Accredited milk		16
Number of cowsheds and dairies inspected	...	54
„ „ „ recorded and tabulated		5
Approximate number of dairy cows		1806

The occupiers of 9 registered premises have been notified of the following defects during the year :—

Defective drainage	...	2
Defective floors		2
Insufficient lighting	...	3
Defective walls		2
Manure heaps to remove		1
Lime washing		4

The number of milk producers was 45, and of producers and retailers 27, retailers only 3.

There is a slight increase on the whole, which may be partly due to the "Drink more Milk" campaign. There are 10 farms that produce T.T. milk, and 16 accredited milk farms.

There were 54 inspections of dairy farms.

There are 1,806 cows, more or less in the district. A lot of the work in connection with milk production is carried out by the County Council, who have a staff of Veterinary Surgeons. Nine notices of defects were sent out to dairymen, in connection with defective drains, floors and walls that needed lime washing.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD.

There were 93 inspections made of Slaughter Houses and Food Shops, compared with 41 only in 1938.

The animals slaughtered were 710 in number, whereas only 294 were killed in the previous year. This number includes 106 cattle, 24 calves, 552 sheep and lambs, and 28 pigs. This year there were nearly twice as many cattle killed, nearly 4 times as many sheep and lambs, and only half as many pigs, as in the year 1938. From all diseases, excluding Tubercle, there were 2 condemned sheep, whilst from Tubercle

2 carcasses of cattle were found unfit for food. One beast had organs affected which made it unfit for human food. Rather strange to say, no carcasses were affected locally with Tubercle, which may be accounted for by the fact that so few pigs were slaughtered. Pigs under new open air living conditions are much freer from the disease than formerly.

A total of 1168 lbs. of meat was condemned as unfit for human food, and ordered to be destroyed.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	106	—	24	552	28
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	0.94	—	—	0.37	—
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.90	—	—	—	—

The following diseased and unsound meat was found to be unfit for food and condemned and destroyed :—

Meat 1168 lbs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles and Whooping Cough were made notifiable, shortly after the war began, by Medical Practitioners at a fee of one shilling per case. Notification by parents and guardians is not necessary, as is the case under the original notification act. As a fact, many more cases are reported by the school authorities as a rule, as in many instances, no doctor is called in.

During this year, only two cases of Whooping Cough, and none of Measles were reported.

Altogether 36 cases were notified under the various acts, and orders applying to them.

Not a single case of Scarlet Fever was reported. This may be connected with the big epidemic in 1934 - 5, when a number of children were immunised by being attacked by this disease.

There were 5 cases of Diphtheria reported, all but one in March. The first case, a father, was reported at the end of February, and two children of this family, in the middle of March, these being more or less "Carrier" cases. About the same time, there was a young child infected, and a young man was reported at the end of the month. All the patients were treated at the Isolation Hospital, and did well.

Six cases of Pneumonia were reported, 3 of each sex, all adults at ages of 40 upwards.

There were 3 deaths, equal to a rate of 50 per cent, which suggests that most of the cases were not notified.

Two cases of Erysipelas were notified, one an infant, the other a middle-aged adult.

A young female adult, a voluntary evacuee, staying with her parents was notified with Para-typhoid.

She had only been there a few days, and was apparently infected whilst staying in the Cirencester district, where she had been a week or two. A case occurred about the same time in another rural area, at the other side of Cirencester. Both patients had fed at the same cafe, about the same day.

Eleven cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified, all but one being at the County Maternity Home. In the last two years, only one case occurred at the same Institution, which takes patients from all the southern part of the County.

A case of Ophthalmic Neonatorum occurred in a baby at the Maternity Hospital, the mother an outside resident.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

There were 90 births recorded, 45 of each sex, and only two illegitimate births occurred. The annual birth rate was 15.3, the rate in 1938 being similar, 15.1. The rate in England and Wales was 15.0 per 1,000. At the County Maternity Hospital, now established at the Poor Law Infirmary, there were 130 births, nearly all of non-residents.

From the monthly returns, including the quarterly reports of deaths of residents occurring outside the area, the total deaths were 66 for the year, of these 38 being males and 28 females. There were no deaths at ages under one year, one at 1—5 years, at 15 to 45 years—6 deaths, at 45 to 65 years—16 deaths, and at ages of 65 years upwards—43 deaths. At all age periods there were more male than female deaths.

One death was due to Influenza, and one death at age under 5 years from Enteritis. Tubercle of the lung caused two deaths, there being one in 1938. There were nine deaths from Cancer, 4 at ages 45 to

65, and 5 at ages over 65 years, an average number. Eight deaths were due to Cerebral Haemorrhage, compared with 10 in 1938. Heart Diseases caused 21 deaths, as compared to 25 in 1938; and Circulatory Diseases caused one death, much the same as in 1938. Only one death was certified from Bronchitis, and 3 from Pneumonia. As there were only 6 cases of the latter disease notified, it appears that many cases were not reported. Nephritis caused 4 deaths, and Senility 5. Three deaths were certified from injuries, all of males. There were 2 suicides, and 2 deaths from Diabetes. In 1938 there were no deaths from either cause. No deaths were due to puerperal causes, similar to 1938.

There was no abnormal mortality during the year, and the deaths were 3 more than in 1938. The infant death rate was nil, compared with 44 per thousand live births in 1938. The annual death rate was 12.5 per 1,000 of population, compared with 12.1 in 1938. The death rate in England and Wales was 12.1 per 1,000. This compares with 11.3 per 1,000, the standard rate for the district, in which allowance is made for the fact that the local population is older than the average for England and Wales.

During the year, 11 deaths of non-residents were certified, and there were 4 deaths that were not certified by a doctor.

